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6283 RETURN TO POMOLOGY
SECTION OF NON-ENCLATURE
VALLEY SELLING AGENT FOR
FRESNO NURSERY
FANCHER CREEK NURSERIES
GLEN ST. MARY NURSERIES
OTTO LOCKE
TEXAS NURSERY CO.
F. T. RAMSEY & SON
ALVIN JAPANESE NURSERY

LIBRARY RECEIVED
JUL 29 1920
U.S. Department of
LA GRANJA
(IRRIGATED FARM)
ELTWEED POMEROY

113
GROUNDS PLANNED FOR PLANTING WITH PLANTS WHICH GROW IN THE

SPECIALTIES:

VINIFERA GRAPES
SOUTH CHINA PEACHES
ORCHID CANNAS
MEXICAN TUBE-ROSES
BANANA PLANTS
AMARYLLIS
CRINUMS

GRAPES

CIRCULAR NO. 6

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

DONNA, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 5, 1913

Dear Sir:

Last winter, as I foretold, saw a larger fruit acreage planted than ever before, particularly of grapes and the coming winter will see another increase.

A year ago, I had just over 4,000 grape vines growing and these were sold before the end of November and I brought in from eight to ten thousand vines from California. This year I have between eleven and twelve thousand growing and already nearly two thousand of them have been sold for winter delivery and it now looks as if they would all be sold before October.

These vines have been trained to one extra strong cane 4 feet high ready to go onto a trellis. With the strong root system which continuous irrigation, cultivation and spraying induces, this method insures almost no loss in transplanting, a rapid and strong starting out of the vine, an occasional bunch of grapes in the next June and a small but fair crop in the following June. Of course it is necessary to soon put up the first wire of your trellis and to rub off all buds which come out below the head.

The California vines cannot be delivered till the middle or end of February because they must become dormant before being dug there and the transportation here occupies a month. Last year, I transplanted these 4 foot vines of mine in January and they did splendidly. They utilized the winter months which because of the warmth of the ground in the Valley, are fine for root growth, to get so well established that at the end of February, they at once started out in a strong growth. This year, I intend to commence digging as soon as the first frost and to deliver the larger lots early in January. This is also a period of much less work than later in February.

Because of the smallness of loss in transplanting, adaptation to the Valley's soil and climate, the strength and vitality of their root system and the quickness with which they develop strong vines and fruit, my vines are easily worth five to ten times what the California vines cost.

As these vines have gone into a number of Texas catalogs and as a large part are already sold for delivery later, I would advise an immediate order if you wish to be sure of getting some of these vines.

PRICES

1st, BY THE ACRE—For \$100.00, payable a quarter on order, a quarter on Dec. 1st, and balance on delivery of vines, I will go to your land, examine its soil and lay, make a written report on it and if furnished a contour map, lay out its ditches and where the grape rows should go, give you written directions as to preparing the soil, furnish the vines with direction as to planting, making trellis and care for first year and with them will furnish 200 cuttings Tamarix Plumosa and 25 banana suckers per acre to plant as wind-breaks.

2nd, PER VINE, VALLEY GROWN—As long as they last, I will sell you my vines grown at La Granja for 25c each, \$2.40 per dozen, \$15.00 per 100 save the few with special prices on them, payable half on order and balance when vines are delivered. I will have a few seconds at 20c each, \$1.80 per dozen and \$10.00 per hundred.

3rd, PER VINE, CALIFORNIA GROWN—These I will deliver in February at 20c each, \$1.80 per dozen, \$10.00 per 100 and in quantities, having them come direct to you, will make, to encourage large planting, the SPECIALLY LOW PRICE of \$90.00 per 1,000 and \$80.00 per 1,000 over 2,000, \$65.00 per 1,000 in lots of 5,000 or over, and \$50.00 per 1,000 for 10,000 or over.

4th, PER CUTTING—Cuttings are uncertain in growth save under expert care but of course much cheaper. This year, I will have ample cuttings of the standard varieties and will sell them at 5c each, 30c per dozen, \$2.00 per 100 and \$10.00 per 1,000. I have had from nothing to 98 per cent of cuttings to grow and advise the planting of the vines.

5th, GRAFTED VINES—For those fearful of the root rot or phylloxera, I expect to be able to get from California, vines of a few standard varieties

grafted on either Riparia x Rupestris 3306 or 3309 or 101-14 which it is claimed are resistant to both root rot and phylloxera. There is no phylloxera in the Valley to my knowledge but there is root rot. These vines will cost 30c each, \$3.00 per dozen or \$20.00 per 100 and I will need to know by Dec. 1st to get them.

6th, MUNSON'S GRAPES—Some few of the wonderful varieties of grapes created by the late Mr. T. V. Munson by crossing vinifera grapes on native and other stock can be grown here and will probably be resistant to both phylloxera and root rot. Until more thoroly tested out, I cannot advise large commercial plantings but do advise the planting of a few of the finest for planting experimentally and for home use. Unless noted otherwise, these will sell at \$1.00 each.

NOTE ON VARIETIES

I am asked what is the best variety of grape. I have between 80 and 90 varieties growing and in five years, will be moderately competent to answer. But those planting want information NOW. Here is my best present opinion but with the clear understanding that as I have changed I will likely change again on fuller experience and knowledge but it is the best I know now.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A MARKET GRAPE

1. EARLINESS. For express shipments to Texas and nearby points, a June ripening grape is needed. By the 10th of July, local grown grapes commence coming into Houston, San Antonio, Waco, and by the 20th of July, Fayetteville, Ark., commences to ship in car lots. These are not the fine vinifera grapes but they answer for grapes and lower the market price.

The earliest grape entering the Chicago and New York market in car lots, comes from the Imperial Valley in California and from Arizona at the very end of July. Hence for car shipments, a grape ripening in July is sure to command a high price and if it has other qualities enhancing its market value, it should be preferred to the June grape.

2. SIZE AND COLOR. New Orleans and many of the Texas cities will take a black or purple grape but in all the northern cities, a white or red grape is preferred. The larger the size of the berry, the more is a grape admired and the better does it sell. Also large bunches are preferred.

3. LOOSENESS OF BUNCH. A loose bunch packs so much better than a tight bunch that it should always be preferred.

4. FIRMNESS, TOUGHNESS OF SKIN, ADHERENCE. These three points should always be looked for in a good shipping grape.

5. FLAVOR. For home use this is the first qualification but the good looking grapes all have fine flavor and it will take a long time to establish in the market a grape which does not carry as well or look as beautiful even if it has a finer flavor.

I place the different varieties here in the order of my judgement as to their value for commercial planting in the Valley.

FLAME TOKAY. Ripens July 5th-25th. This is a very large, meaty, firm, oval grape, red in color, a good shipper. The bunches are large and flavor fair. The vine is a strong grower. As yet we are uncertain whether it will color up the rich strong red which makes it so handsome a grape. The rich color is essential in it in California and acres have been dug up where the soil would not produce this fine colored grape, but while fine color is desirable here, I do not regard it as necessary because of our earliness of marketing. While a strong grower it is not an early producer and much must not be expected from it till the third year. More of this grape are planted in California than of any other market grape.

MUSCAT OF ALEXANDRIA. Ripens July 5th-25th. This is a large, meaty, firm, white grape, good shipper. To my mind, the Muscats have the finest flavor of any grape grown and as this is both a handsome berry and a good shipper, I advise its planting here. It has the reputation of being a straggling grower but has grown well with me. Also it has trait of dropping berries it lacks strength to ripen and hence the bunches are apt not to be not well filled out and the bunches are not as handsome as some others. It is the best raisin grape there is. It is planted in the hottest parts of California. Like the Tokay, no large crop can be expected till the third year.

DATTIER DE BEYROUTH. This while an old grape in Asia Minor, is comparatively new in California but they speak in the highest terms of it and I have eaten some of the grapes here which are superb. It is an immense, oblong, white grape borne in large, loose clusters and it ripens in July. It is a strong grower and is said to be a heavy bearer. Despite the fact that only a few vines have been grown in the Valley, my planting next winter, will be entirely of this grape because it is so highly spoken of. Its price is a little higher than the others being \$16.50 per 100.

MALAGA. Ripens July 5th-25th. This large, oval, white grape with thick skin, firm flesh and loose bunch is so great a favorite in California that I would have given it first place save for the fact that my vines have fruited very scantily. It may be they need more age to fruit heavily. Individual vines have borne beautiful fruit and a heavy crop.

GOLDEN HAMBURGH or Listan. Ripens June 20th to July 10th. The berry is smaller than any of preceeding four but medium size, round, white and firm. The bunch is large and loose. I have had many bunches weighing four pounds. It is a strong grower, will bear a good crop the second year and bears early in the season. But if put on the market at the same date as any of the preceeding four, it would not command as high a price because a smaller grape but it is nearly done bearing before the others are ripe. Hence it is a valuable vine to plant for the market.

BLACK HAMBURGH. Ripens June 15th to July 5th. This is a large purple-black berry born in tight clusters which last is a bad characteristic for packing. It is a handsome fruit and because of the earliness of its ripening, commands a good price but if it ripened at the same time as the first four, it would not command as high a price as they will. It is a good grower and very prolific and very early bearing. Vines planted next January will, if good care is taken of them, produce a good crop a year from the following June. Its price is a little lower than the others, \$13.50 per 100.

BLACK CORNICHON. This is a large, long, olive shaped black grape ripening in July. It has a very loose bunch, is a strong grower and is one of the most popular California grapes. Individual vines have given fine fruit here but no commercial planting has yet fruited. I planted an acre last winter and they are doing finely.

EMPEROR. This is a very large, round, firm, meaty red grape ripening in July with us. It is so firm that it is a splendid shipper carrying most anywhere. Small plantings have fruited well here but no commercial planting is yet old enough. I planted an acre last year and they have grown well.

FOR HOME PLANTING

The above are the varieties I advise for commercial planting and I think they will all be successful as such. But where a farmer wants them mainly for his own home eating, he can have fine flavored grapes, early and late grapes which are not real suitable for shipping and he should put in trial varieties. He should have a greater variety than for commercial planting and at least a few of the varieties which set on and ripen a second crop. I recommend the following:

GROS COLEMAN. Ripens June 25th to July 15th. The berries of this grape are the largest of any grown, they are round, reddish black with thick but tender skin. The flavor is slightly acid and winy, different from most any other grape and greatly liked by some. The vine is a strong grower and early bearer but because of its tender skin, this grape is only a moderately good shipper but it is so handsome a grape that if it reaches the market in good condition, it commands a very high price. It should be planted for home use at least. 40c each, \$4.00 per dozen.

BLACK MOROCCO. This is a large, late ripening, very sweet and juicy black grape. Some small plantings of this variety have fruited well but we do not know enough about it here to justify large plantings. It has the quality of setting on a continuous crop of fruit and for this reason should be used in all home plantings. Only obtainable in California vines. 30c each, \$3.00 per dozen.

THOMPSON SEEDLESS. This is a very early, small, greenish white grape borne in large clusters, a strong grower and prolific bearer. It is largely planted in California but success with it here has been scanty; hence I can only advise it for home and experimental planting. Only obtainable in California vines. 25c each, \$2.40 per dozen.

Of the following, I have a few vines of my own raising and will sell at the prices named.

FEHER ZAGOS. A very prolific, large white grape, sweet in flavor and early but with so thin a skin it is not fit to ship and cracks readily. But it is so early a bearer and so prolific, it is worth planting. 20c each, \$2.40 per dozen.

CHASSELAS. This is a large, round white grape ripening in June, extensively planted in California for home use and home market. It ripens a large crop and bears early. 25c each, \$2.40 per dozen.

ALMERIA. This is the grape imported from Spain in cork and generally known as Malaga but it has a larger berry, oval, is said to be sweeter and has many characteristics making it a finer grape than the Malaga. 40c each, \$4.00 per dozen.

HEBRON. Another large white grape ripening in July, with the Sweetwater or Chasselas flavor. Worth trying out. 40c, \$4.00 per dozen.

FOSTER'S AND FAPPLY. Two superb white grapes which grow so alike and whose fruit is so similar that I cannot tell them apart. They would sell as the very finest of Malaga or white grapes. 40c, \$4.00 per doz.

SERVAN BLANC. This is a magnificent, rather late ripening, very large almost pure white grape of fine flavor and shipping qualities. At present it and one other of which I have too small a stock this year to offer any for sale, look as if they might bring the highest price of any white grapes raised in the market. 50c, \$5.00 per dozen.

ANGELINA. A very large berry in a large bunch of an oval rose colored grape. Very meaty, very firm and a good shipper. This grape is so beautiful that as it colors up well here, it may replace the Tokay in a red grape. 50c each, \$5.00 per dozen.

ARAMON. A large, round black grape with white bloom, meaty, crisp, juicy, with thick skin and a loose bunch. Ripens medium late. It looks as if this might replace the Black Hamburgs and other purple grapes. 40c, \$4.00 per dozen.

CARIGNANE. A dark purple wine grape, of medium size and fruity, sprightly flavor. An early and prolific bearer. 30c, \$3.00 per dozen.

LUGLIENGA. A late ripening, medium size, purple grape with a rich, fruity, flavor and very productive. 30c, \$3.00 per dozen.

MUSCAT MADEIRA. This grape ripened before any others with me. Picked ripe grapes early in June. It is only a medium size berry and so thin a skin, it is a poor shipper but it has the exquisite Muscat flavor and I recommend it for home planting. 40c, \$4.00 per dozen.

BLACK MUSCATS. I have four or five varieties of Black Muscats which are so close in fruit, flavor and growth that it is almost impossible to tell them apart. These are hybrids between the regular white Muscat and some black grapes and in them, the rather cloying sweetness of the Muscat is modified to a delicacy and exquisiteness of flavor surpassing all others. I do not yet know whether they will be good shippers but I would rather eat them than any other grape grown and if they will ship, when once known, they will command a very high price. I have but a few vines to sell and the price is \$1.00 each.

Next year more of my varieties will be coming into bearing and I can give a larger assortment and a better selection.

SPRAY MATERIALS

I am carrying for my own use, a stock of bordeaux paste, lime-sulphur solution, powdered sulphur, soluble sulphur, arsenate of lead, etc., and my neighbors come to me for their supplies. I will be glad to supply others and to give advice as to what to use. Also, I am carrying an extra Automatic Spray machine with copper tank to use in case of emergencies. It will cost you \$10.00 and my experience is that it is one of the best. Later I expect to put in a supply of dust guns or machines. It is as foolish for anyone to try to raise fine fruit, flowers or truck without a spray machine, a dust gun and the materials to go with them, as it would be to farm without a plow.